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PARADIGM PILGRIMS

Communication ⇔ Negotiation ⇔ Organizational Effectiveness

July 28, 1997

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Re: Inquiry Submittal

Project Title and Applicant Name...

This Inquiry regarding possible CALFED Category III funding in the Nov. '97 - Jan. '98 cycle is being submitted by the Barber and Gonzales Consulting Group on behalf of the El Dorado County Resource Conservation District (RCD) and the American River Conservancy (ARC), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the American River. The contact person for the RCD is Mark Hicks, Program Manager and Alan Ehr Gott, Director of Conservation Programs. The title of the Project is the South Fork Dialogue (Dialogue).

Project Description and Primary Biological-Ecological Objectives...

The Dialogue is a multi-stakeholder forum utilizing an interest-based approach (non-adversarial/consensus) to identify, understand and meet the separate and mutual interests of diverse entities and individuals in the South Fork of the American River. It began in the fall of 1995, and has been facilitated largely *pro bono by our firm since its inception*.

A partial list includes environmental organizations (local, regional, national), state and federal resource management agencies (Dept. of Fish and Game, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management), County Government (El Dorado Irrigation District, El Dorado County Water Agency, County Parks and Recreation, Planning, County Attorney), recreation interests (commercial and private such as whitewater, mining), individuals from the private sector (Builders Exchange, Murry and Downs Architects, Madrona Vineyards), and public utilities with hydroelectric plants in the watershed (PG&E and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District).

The long term goal of the Dialogue is to develop a watershed plan which integrates the economic, environmental, and social needs within the county and watershed vis a vis the limited resources of the South Fork; and thereby protect and enhance each of these needs. Specifically, to establish and maintain optimal flow releases for the benefit of fish and wildlife; to protect the riparian habitat through public education, fee acquisition, conservation easements and habitat conservation plans; and to maintain and enhance water quality through improved forest practices, landscape management, ecosystem restoration/preservation, and reduction of source pollution. (grading, paving, road building).

Approach, Tasks, Schedule...

However, there are significant obstacles to overcome before Dialogue participants can begin to develop a watershed plan with reasonable hope of success. The positional, "I win/you lose" model of public policy decision making has vitiated meaningful-workable and lasting decision making in El Dorado County for some time. The history of decision making about water and land use has so damaged the elements of trust and respect, that any form of decision making in the community must address these issues as well.

Conversations among Dialogue participants concerning both the substantive and relationship elements have been ongoing for two years. The "observable" results are many while "concrete" results have yet to materialize. The agenda has been identified, the work on the issues commenced, the level of awareness and comprehension raised, and the prospect to utilizing better decision making process has been committed to. However, there has yet to be developed a common vision for the future of El Dorado County that holds the consensus of the community. Taking the next step - and finding the resources to support it - is the challenge now before the Dialogue. This task is significant as some 25 different

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licensing and policy decisions confront the watershed stakeholders over the next 15 years. Significant decision making planning efforts will be required *now* in order to successfully apply a non-adversarial negotiating approach to these decisions.

Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED....

The development of a watershed plan for the South Fork and the preceding work necessary to design and implement such a plan meets two of CALFED's four key objectives: 1) it will contribute to overall water quality improvements in the watershed, therefore the bay/delta; and 2) it has potential to help align Bay-Delta water supplies and current and projected beneficial uses.

Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts...

One year ago a statewide conservation group participating in the Dialogue secured a \$10,000 grant to support the process. Both PG&E and SMUD have the ability and some willingness to contribute as well. Local entities are contributing in-kind services, from managing the all-volunteer steering committee to providing a venue for the regular meetings.

The cost of supporting the Dialogue for one more year - the estimated time required to begin to actually design a watershed plan - will be about \$50,000. This covers process designing, facilitation, meeting preparation and support, follow-up, and administrative costs. This does not include the estimates of costs for substantive data development.

Applicant Qualifications...

Stakeholder participants to date include substantive and policy experts and decision makers. All have expressed a willingness to provide and have assigned appropriate staff to the Dialogue's process and projects once identified and underway. Participatory commitment has been frequently tested over the course of the past two years. Yet it remains high and re-iterated by stakeholders. Process facilitation only has been provided by our firm as we were present and party to its inception. Practitioner experience with facilitation, process design, process support is deep and respected. It is anticipated that biosketches associated with substantive and process experts/participants are indicative of capacity and high probability of success for the project itself.

Local Support/Coordination with Other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED Objectives...

The South Fork Dialogue has the support and active participation of diverse stakeholders in El Dorado County including those responsible for developing a County government initiated "River Plan" as well as those parties involved in high profile disputes around land use, population growth, and consumptive water supplies. In addition talks have commenced about the possibility of collaborating on a Phase Two watershed management plan for the entire American River watershed.

Inquiry Submittal...

This submittal is the consequence of a "last minute" awareness by the parties about the possible applicability of CALFED Category III funding to this project. It is our understanding that the purpose of the inquiry submittal is to both encourage the actual preparation and submittal of actual proposals as well as establish an awareness for CALFED/BAY DELTA about the prospects of appropriate funding opportunities requiring such encouragement. We look forward to entertaining your questions and constructive feedback.

Sincerely,



Steve Barber